

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 776
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION relative to the role and operations of the
Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) has recently considered a proposal to open three (3) regional offices, one (1) in each grand division of the State, to facilitate the agency's operations and to better serve the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, while this proposal is an excellent idea overall, it would not adequately serve the needs of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, with over 160,000 students comprising its public school population, Shelby County is the home of nearly twenty percent (20%) of this State's entire public school population; and

WHEREAS, not only does Shelby County have the largest student population in Tennessee, it also has a larger student population than any county in six (6) of the eight (8) states surrounding Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, because of its unique position in Tennessee's public school system, Shelby County should have its own TSAC regional office; and

WHEREAS, in another issue related to TSAC's role in this State's educational system, there is a great need for the establishment of a program to disseminate accurate information concerning lottery scholarships, other scholarships, and other forms of financial aid for higher education to interested students and their parents; and

WHEREAS, this need is even greater in Shelby County because of its large public school population, and especially so considering the projection that Shelby County will account for twenty-seven percent (27%) of all lottery revenues; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of local education agencies, teachers and parents, TSAC could play a vital, proactive role in providing essential scholarship and financial aid

information to students interested in pursuing opportunities in higher education and their parents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is the sense of this General Assembly that the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation should establish four (4) regional offices, one (1) in each grand division of the State and one (1) in Shelby County, to better serve the educational needs of Tennesseans, and we urge and encourage TSAC to take appropriate action to accomplish such goal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation is urged and encouraged to establish a program to disseminate and otherwise provide access to vital information concerning lottery scholarships, other scholarships, and other forms of financial aid for higher education to interested students and their parents. Such information should include academic and eligibility requirements, application procedures and forms, and all other pertinent information relative to scholarships and financial aid available to Tennessee students. TSAC should solicit the input of local education agencies, teachers, and parents in the development of such program. Seminars and workshops relative to financial planning for higher education should be available to parents, students and teachers as a component of such program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.